

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing help to people with disabilities, comprising the steps:

- a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;
- b) establishing a first database identifying and having information about a plurality of people with disabilities and for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has; and establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
- c) after the first and second databases are established at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
- d) in response to said request, using a matching server to obtain information about the person making the request from the pre-established first database and to use that information obtained from the first database to identify in the second database one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and ~~said at least one of the volunteers receiving~~
- e) after said one of the volunteers is identified, using the matching server to notify said one of the volunteers of the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

2. (Presently Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein:

step (c) includes the step of one of the persons with disabilities using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network; and

step (d) includes the step of the network identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of, the volunteers providing at least one service selected from the group comprising:

- i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,
- ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and
- iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

4. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, further comprising the step of using a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the matching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and
sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

7. (Currently Amended) A system for providing help to people with disabilities, comprising:

a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device; and

a first database identifying and having information about a plurality of people with disabilities and for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has; and establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;

at least one of the persons with disabilities after the first and second databases are established, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and a matching server to obtain information about the person making the request from the first and second pre-established database, in response to said request, and to use that information obtained from the first database to identify in the second database one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and ~~said at least one of the volunteers receiving~~

the matching server including means to notify said one of the volunteers, after said one of the volunteers is identified, of the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

8. (Presently Presented) A system according to Claim 7, wherein:

one of the persons with disabilities uses one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network;

the network includes

means for identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

9. (Original) A system according to Claim 8, wherein the volunteers provide at least one service selected from the group comprising:

- i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,
- ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and
- iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

10. (Original) A system according to Claim 8, further comprising a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to Claim 8, wherein the matching means includes:

a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

means for sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

means for interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and

means for sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

13. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing help to people with disabilities, said method steps comprising:

- a) organizing a network of people with disabilities and of volunteers for helping people with disabilities, each of the persons with disabilities and each of the volunteers having a portable, wireless communications device;
- b) establishing a first database identifying and having information about the a plurality of people with disabilities and for each of the persons with disabilities, identifying at least one specific disability said person has; and establishing a second database identifying a plurality of volunteers, and for each of the volunteers, identifying at least one specific disability said volunteer is willing to assist;
- c) after the first and second databases are established, at least one of the persons with disabilities, using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help; and
- d) in response to said request, using a matching server to obtain information about the person making the request from the pre-established first and to use that information obtained from the first database to identify in the second database one of the volunteers who is willing to assist with the specific disability said at least one of the persons with disabilities has, and ~~said at least one of the volunteers receiving~~

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e) after said one of the volunteers is identified, using the matching server to notify said one of the volunteers of the request for help via one of the wireless communications devices.

14. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to Claim 13, wherein:

step (c) includes the step of one of the persons with disabilities using one of the wireless communications devices to transmit a request for help to the network; and

step (d) includes the step of the network identifying said one of the persons with disabilities to said one of the volunteers via one of the wireless communications devices.

15. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of, the volunteers providing at least one service selected from the group comprising:

- i) reading a newspaper or other information to a blind person,
- ii) translating a conversation into sign language, and
- iii) bringing requested items to one of the persons with disabilities.

16. (Original) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein said method steps further comprise the step of using a global positioning system to identify the location of said one of the persons with disabilities, and to identify one or more of the volunteers in the vicinity of said one of the persons with disabilities.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A program storage device according to Claim 14, wherein the searching step includes the step of:

using a matching server to search the people with disabilities and the volunteers to find a list of candidate volunteers and methods of help;

sending a request to each of the candidate volunteers;

interacting with the candidate volunteers to find a final choice volunteer; and

sending a final request to the final choice volunteer.

19. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of using the matching server to identify one of the volunteers includes the step of:

using the matching server

i) to identify several candidate volunteers,

ii) to establish dialogues between the person requesting help and the candidate volunteers, and

iii) on the basis of said dialogues, selecting one of the candidate volunteers to assist the person requesting help.

20. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the matching server includes a dialogue module, and comprising the further step of using the dialogue module to establish communications between the volunteer and the person making the request for help.

21. (New) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the step of using the matching server to identify one of the volunteers includes the step of using the matching server to identify volunteers who have already assisted the person making the request for help.

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